

SUMMARY

During the month of March 2021, retail turnover in **nominal** (current) prices:

- fell by 1.1% in South Australia in seasonally adjusted terms (rose by 1.3% nationally).

In addition to the monthly release of nominal retail turnover data, the ABS has this month also released **chain volume** retail turnover data for the March quarter 2021. Chain volume ('real') data removes the effect of price movements, and therefore provides a measure of the volume of retail trade.

During the March quarter 2021, **real** retail turnover:

- fell by 0.5% in South Australia in seasonally adjusted terms (also fell by 0.5% nationally).

Note: The ABS has suspended the retail trend series since February 2020. It will be reinstated when more certainty emerges in the underlying trend in retail.

FURTHER ANALYSIS

Nominal retail turnover (monthly)

During March 2021, seasonally adjusted nominal retail turnover in South Australia fell 1.1%, following a rise of 0.2% in the previous month.

Western Australia recorded the strongest rise in the month (up 5.5%), followed by Victoria (up 3.5%), Tasmania (up 1.3%) and New South Wales (up 0.2%). Retail turnover fell in Queensland (down 0.5%) and South Australia (down 1.1%) in the month — see Table 1.

Compared to a year earlier, retail turnover was 1.1% lower in South Australia but 2.2% higher nationally.

CHART 1: MONTHLY NOMINAL RETAIL TURNOVER - \$MILLION, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

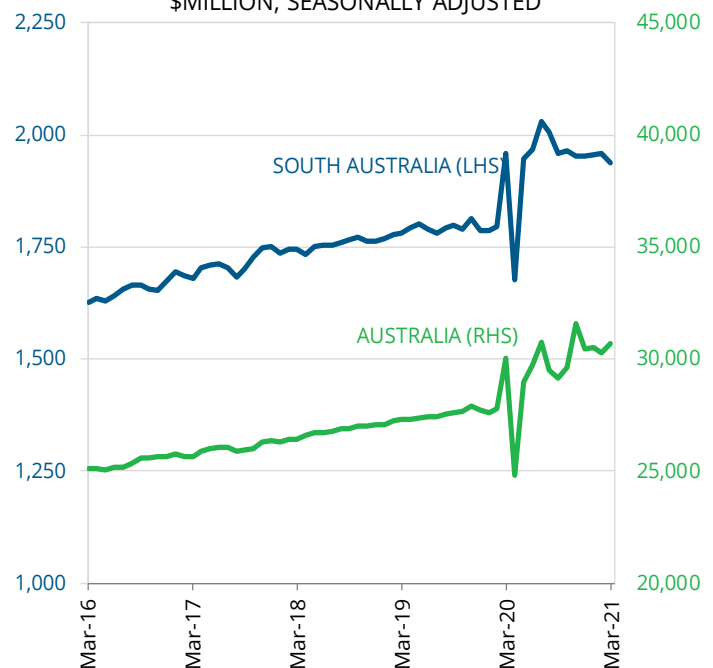


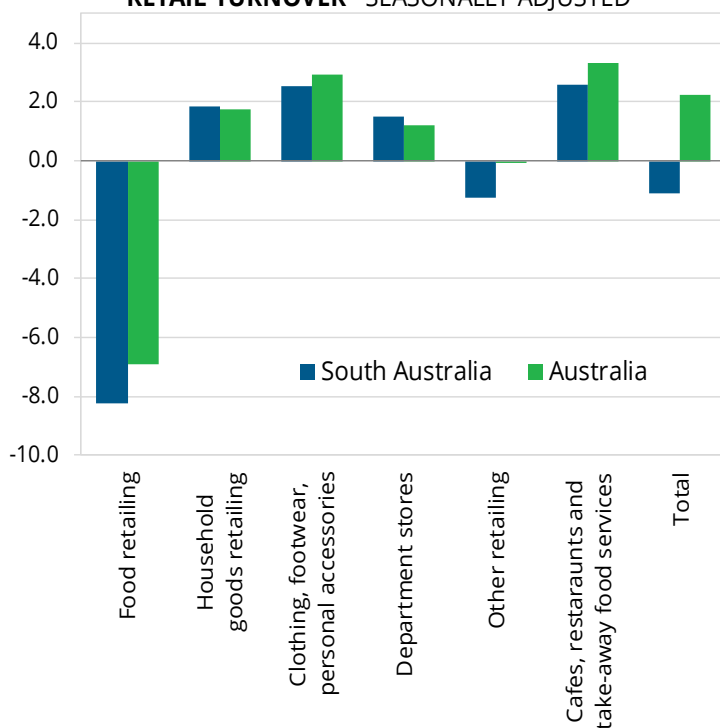
TABLE 1: Nominal Retail Turnover (Seasonally Adjusted)

	Mar 21 (\$m)	Mar 21 v Feb 21 (% change)	Mar 21 v Mar 20 (% change)
NSW	9,650.4	0.2	2.9
VIC	7,819.0	3.5	0.1
QLD	6,349.9	-0.5	2.6
SA	1,937.1	-1.1	-1.1
WA	3,424.2	5.5	6.2
TAS	642.6	1.3	2.7
AUS	30,699.6	1.3	2.2

Through the year to March 2021, increases in South Australian retail turnover were recorded for clothing, footwear and personal accessory retailing (up 61%), cafes, restaurants and take-away food services (up 30%), department stores retailing (up 29%) and household goods retailing (up 12%). Turnover in the year to March declined for food retailing (down 16%) and 'other' retailing* (down 7.6%), —see Chart 2.

* 'Other' retailing includes: pharmacy and cosmetics, newspapers and books, stationery, flowers, toys and games, sport and camping equipment and entertainment media retailing.

CHART 2: THROUGH YEAR PERCENTAGE POINT CONTRIBUTIONS TO GROWTH IN NOMINAL RETAIL TURNOVER - SEASONALLY ADJUSTED



Real retail turnover (quarterly)

The 0.5% fall in South Australian seasonally adjusted real retail turnover in the March quarter followed a fall of 2.5% in the previous quarter. Nationally, real retail turnover also fell by 0.5% in the quarter.

Compared with a year earlier, seasonally adjusted real retail turnover was 3.0% higher in South Australia and 4.7% higher nationally—see Chart 3 and Table 2.

CHART 3: QUARTERLY REAL RETAIL TURNOVER - \$MILLION, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

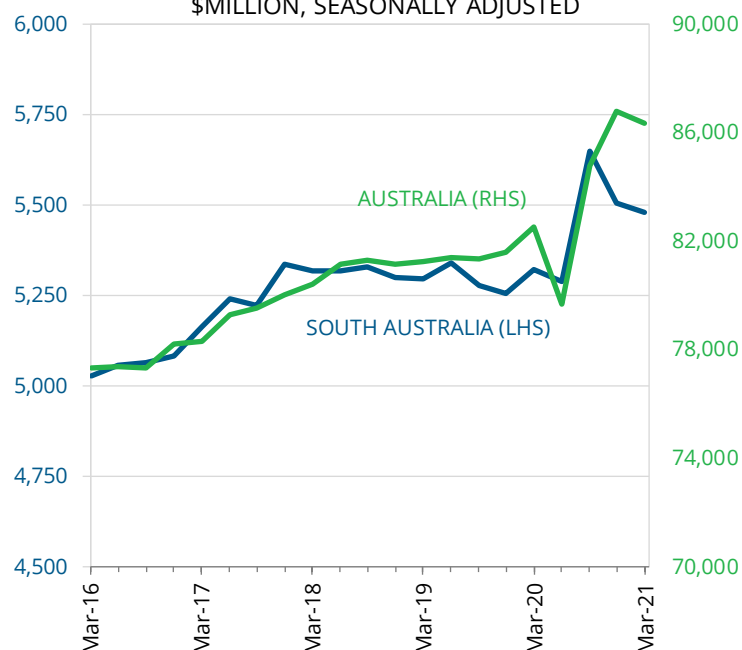


TABLE 2: Real Retail Turnover (seas. Adj.) #

	Mar qtr 21 (\$m)	Mar qtr 21 v Dec qtr 20 (% change)	Mar qtr 21 v Mar qtr 20 (% change)
NSW	27,214.3	-1.1	5.1
VIC	21,942.9	1.3	1.7
QLD	18,016.5	-1.2	6.2
SA	5,480.2	-0.5	3.0
WA	9,436.2	-1.8	7.7
TAS	1,795.5	-0.4	4.6
AUS	86,393.3	-0.5	4.7

Reference year for chain volume measures is 2018-19

Next release of [this ABS data](#) (formerly cat. no. 8501.0) is 3 June 2021.